

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS COONAN

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today, on behalf of the men and women of our institution, to honor the American life of Thomas Coonan.

For most Members of Congress, the gateway to the chamber of the United States House of Representatives is the doorway to the Speaker's Lobby.

For many years, Tom Coonan stood at that door in the service of his country and the service of democracy. As a trusted member of the House Chamber security detail and the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, it was his post.

For more than 15 years, Tom Coonan stood at the passage to the People's House, where he was a familiar and comforting sight to all who passed regularly through our chamber.

But Tom Coonan was standing vigil for American democracy long before his first day of work for the House.

Before he served his country with the House Sergeant-at-Arms Office, Tom Coonan served his country with distinction in our armed forces.

He began his military career in 1963, and served as an Assistant Intelligence officer, as the commander of Amphibious Group Two, until 1966.

For the next decade and a half Tom held a number of civilian positions. Then, in 1981, once again feeling the tug of his desire to serve the nation he loved, Tom volunteered for a recall to reserve active duty.

Beginning in 1990, he served as the U.S. Commander-in-Chief Pacific's Representative for the Southwest Pacific, Suva, and Fiji.

In September 1995, he joined the House Sergeant-at-Arms Office as a member of the Chamber Security staff. He was always stationed in the Speaker's Lobby—the gateway to the chamber at the heart of the democracy Tom spent most of his adult life protecting.

On August 23, 2012, tragically, while members were away for the August District Work Period, Tom Coonan suffered a fatal heart attack at his home in Washington, DC. He is to be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

For those who served with Tom Coonan, knew him, and were protected by him, his presence is sorely missed. But because of his steadfast and constant service, the vibrant commotion of democracy goes on. And as the House returns this week for legislative business, its members and staff do so with unfailing gratitude for the life he led.

Having stood guard faithfully at the passage to the People's House, Thomas Coonan now stands in the halls of eternity with Our Creator—forever strong, forever vigilant, and forever at peace.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
CENTURY OF SERVICE COM-
MEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2139, the Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act. I thank my colleague, Mr. ROSKAM from Illinois, for introducing this bill which would direct the Secretary of Treasury to mint and issue \$1 coins in commemoration of the centennial of the founding of the Lions Clubs International.

Founded in 1917 by Chicago businessman Melvin Jones, the Lions Club has expanded to over 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members worldwide. What began as a national association extended beyond U.S. borders within 3 years of founding. Now, nearly a century later, the Lions continue to carry out their motto "We Serve" in 207 countries, touching every corner of the globe.

In the last century, Lions Clubs International has helped to solve problems and serve humanitarian needs on the ground. Their services reach the blind, youth, and the elderly and also address health, the environment and disaster relief.

I am especially grateful to the Lions for their dedicated assistance to the people of my district in American Samoa. Following the deadly 2009 tsunami that devastated villages in American Samoa and Samoa, our local Lions Clubs were among those that came to the aid of our people. The Lions Club of Pago Pago continued to provide relief to many residents who lost their eyeglasses during the tsunami. Volunteers offered residents eye screening services that included complete eye examinations to evaluate visual health and detect eye diseases, prescriptions, and referral services. The Apia Lions in Samoa also provided assistance through disaster relief shelters and distributed donations such as clothing, food, and medicine from international Lions Clubs members.

I am proud to say that the Lions Club of Pago Pago has provided consistent services to our people of American Samoa and is a priceless asset to our community. I commend the Lions Clubs International and I stand in full support of this bill which celebrates and honors a century of international leadership in humanitarian service.

IN MEMORIAM AND REMEM-
BRANCE OF FIRST SERGEANT
ACKEEM PAUL GREEN 369TH
HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS—HAR-
LEM YOUTH MARINES, INC.**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to share the news of a devastating loss to Harlem and the greater New York City community. We joined with many family members and friends at Memorial Baptist Church to celebrate the life of Harlem Youth Marine Cadet First Sergeant, Ackeem Paul Green, who passed away Sunday, June 3, 2012, from a fatal gunshot wound.

On behalf of our beloved Village of Harlem, my wife Alma and I want to extend our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy, support, and love to my beloved friend, Col. Gregory E. Collins, and the entire family of the First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green. At the age of 25 he was indeed a promising young man continuing the honorable legacy of his father to better not only himself but his fellow community youth members as well.

Great young men like Ackeem are precious gifts that God has made to help make this world a better and safer place for all of us. First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green lost his life on the urban battlefield, from gun violence right here at home, while enjoying a game of basketball with friends on a Sunday afternoon. First Sergeant Green was shot in the back by the enemy of illegal guns in the hands of our misguided youth. An enemy that has taken the lives of so many of our promising young carnations and roses and that has declared war throughout every urban neighborhood in the United States of America.

Every time I hear the news that one of our young sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, husbands and wives are struck down by illegal guns in the wrong hands of our misguided young people—it pains my heart with depression and anger. What makes this very difficult for me is that it has taken the life of a young man whose very focus in life was to mentor young men and women and provide them with a positive direction through the principles and leadership of the Harlem Youth Marines and with the values and courage of the United States Marine Corp.

Since the age of 15 Ackeem has committed countless amounts of time and effort to the Harlem Youth Marine Cadets (HYMC). Once Ackeem reached the age limit to serve as a cadet, he remained dedicated and continued to serve the organization through volunteer work. He took time to mentor young cadets and served as a positive and much needed role model to many of our youth both in and outside of HYMC.

The Harlem Youth Marines, Inc. provides instruction in military grooming and development to students willing and eager to learn. This

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